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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Agricultural Conditions in Ostrowite and Kowalewo:  
Status of Private Farmers/Pressure for Collectivization  
Artificial Fertilizer/ Arbitrary CP Agricultural Policies.

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## Status of Private Farmers

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The private farmers in Poland still live better than anybody else, with the exception of very high CP and government bosses. Thus they can eat meat (salted and cured) four times a week--a luxury which is impossible in the towns.

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4.

The annual milk quota for their holdings is 2000 litres, for which the state [in 1952] paid 90 groszy per liter selling it later to consumers for 2.5-3 zl per liter. The grain quota is 26 cwts, ie, 13 cubic metres. It must be delivered in rye, wheat and barley. The milk and grain quotas of a farm depend on its size: the larger the farm, the larger the quota per hectare. In contrast, the meat norm is always the same irrespective of the size of a farm: 36 kilograms (on the hoof) per hectare. The prices paid by the state for meat and grain [in 1952] were pretty low. For

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2.

meat the state paid 5-7 [ ] note: [ ] probably "zl per" 7 kg on the hoof; consumers had to pay up to 70 zl. per kg for some kinds of sausage. For barley the state paid 70 zl. per cwt, for wheat 90 zl. per cwt.

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5. "If a farmer delivers over and above his compulsory quota he gets a premium. The [ ] farms had no compulsory egg quota but sold eggs to the state nevertheless to obtain premia. A premium might be a pail or a little washing powder. [ ] also sold butter to the state for [ ] 20 zl. per kg.; consumers paid 60 zl. per kg.

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#### Pressure for Collectivization

7. "The authorities are disseminating considerable propaganda for kolkhozes or Spoldzielnia Produkcyjna. The high taxes of private farmers are supposed to be an additional inducement for them to join the kolkhozes.
8. "This propaganda proved successful at Ostrowite in the spring 1951 when a kolkhoz was organized there. Sixteen of the 70 farms in the village joined the new venture. Most of these 16 farmers had been unable to pay the exorbitant state taxes and had been threatened with a sentence in a labour camp. However, the kolkhoz did not win their approval. At the beginning of 1952, when the accounts for 1951 had been settled, 14 of the 16 left the spoldzielnia, despite reprisals (those who had been new settlers on former German farms were compelled to leave those farms). The authorities started intensive propaganda and exerted strong pressure on the farmers to join the kolkhoz. This pressure lasted throughout 1952. It ended with the re-establishment of the kolkhoz with 23 members. At present the kolkhoz exists in this form. Those who joined the kolkhoz in 1952 were again farmers who had been unable to fulfill their state quotas and pay their taxes.
9. "The staunchest opponents of the kolkhoz are the peasant women. A tragicomical incident happened about a year ago:  
A small farmer living near Kowalewo had only two hectares of land, a wife and two children between 15 and 20. He found he was unable to fulfill all his obligations towards the state and still earn a living on his small farm. He decided to join a kolkhoz. When he told his wife that he had signed an agreement to join a kolkhoz, she grew angry and beat him with a rolling pin. The poor husband, seeing no way out of his troubles, took a piece of rope and went to the shed, planning to hang himself. However, the wife discovered him and stopped him. She went to the kolkhoz chairman and demanded that her husband be released from the agreement. She got what she wanted, and the poor man has to struggle on as before.  
The women have saved many villages from collectivization. Of course, they can exploit the fact that for some reason the authorities still do not like to arrest and deport women. Thus they can voice their protests, while the men keep silent to avoid labour camps. The CP seems to think that it would be awkward to indict all the women who attack the CP propagandists in the village. Moreover, the majority of the propagandists prefer not to report such attacks, lest they appear ridiculous. At Ostrowite, in September 1952 a propagandist despatched by the authorities achieved nothing. He had to leave the village.

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3.

## Distribution of Artificial Fertilizer

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[redacted] the SPOLDZIELNIA SAMOPOMOC CHLOPSKA also sells artificial fertilizers to the farmers who have delivered their quotas-but only to those on small and medium farms. The kulaks may buy artificial fertilizer only if some is left over from the others; this never happens.

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## Arbitrary CP Agriculturists

11. "An example of how the CP organizes agricultural work: At the end of August 1952 [redacted] a mechanic, helped a farmer in the village of Borek, commune of Kowalewo, do his threshing. He had hired a 'locomobile' for the day. The locomobile had originally belonged to a kulak and was now in the possession of the local CP organization. Since the day it had been taken over by the CP, the locomobile had not once been repaired. About 11 am on the threshing day the so-called 'Trojka'-the control organ of the CP-arrived at the farm. The 'trojka' was headed by (fnu) KLABUN, chairman of the Gminna Rada Narodowa and an important official in the CP organization at Kowalewo, either secretary or deputy chairman. The 'trojka' ordered the farmer to deliver the rest of his grain quota (about two tons) that noon. He protested and proposed to do it the following day, so as to make full use of the 'locomobile'. Nothing helped: [redacted] the farmer would be held personally responsible and could expect a long sojourn 'in an uncomfortable place' if the grain was not forthcoming instantly. The farmer had to leave his threshing, hire a cart and horse from his neighbour and report to the reception point. Thus he lost valuable threshing time, had to pay the neighbour, all for a whim of the CP bosses. The grain delivery could have been made the next day without loss to anybody. Another member of the Kowalewo 'trojka' was a nasty character who was generally nicknamed 'Gandhi' on account of his likeness to the great Mahatma. Prior to World War II he was a professional collector and seller of bloodsuckers. During the Communist regime, he has discovered that he can make a career by obeying the authorities and acting as a zealous propagandist. He is now a notorious speaker at all propaganda meetings.

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12. "The grain deliveries are checked with utmost exactitude. Nobody may go free. But the authorities do not fulfill their own obligations towards the people. Fish is something that must appear on Polish Christmas tables: the so-called wilja. In Christmas 1952 the entire commune of Kowalewo (about 3000 inhabitants) received no more than 50 kg of salt herring. The queues were enormous."

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